

**POSITION STATEMENT  
TENNESSEE BOARD OF DENTISTRY**

*Associated Structures*

---

On November 21, 2002, the Tennessee Board of Dentistry (Board) initiated a public rulemaking process that will, among other things, define the term “associated structures.” While this rulemaking process is pending, it is the Board’s position that the term “associated structures” shall be defined as follows:

**Associated Structures** – The term “associated structures,” as it appears in *Tennessee Code Annotated* § 63-5-108 or any regulation of the Tennessee Board of Dentistry, shall be defined as follows. Any structure grouped by some common factor. Structures can be associated with the teeth and jaws by anatomic and/or functional factors (e.g., the teeth and jaws are associated with the major and minor muscles of mastication and all of their attachments; the teeth and jaws are associated with the oral pharynx, nasal pharynx and the airway including the trachea). All structures adjacent, attached, or contiguous with the teeth and jaws are associated structures (e.g., the teeth and jaws are associated with the head and neck, including the face and its components orbital, nasal, aural, etc.).

This position statement shall expire when the Board’s definition of the term “associated structures” becomes a final and fully effective regulation of the Board in accordance with the Tennessee Administrative Procedures Act.

**Adopted by the Tennessee Board of Dentistry on this the 21<sup>st</sup> day of November, 2002.**

---

J. Howard McClain, D.D.S., President  
Tennessee Board of Dentistry

DS/G4022343